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Lee Odom (He's Real)

Lee Odom, very much a real person, said today he gave Clay L. Shaw his Dallas address—P.O. Box 19106—when he was in New Orleans last year trying to promote a bullfight.

Odom's name and box number were found in Shaw's address book by Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison, who said Friday that the number 19106 was part of an ingenious code linking Lee Harvey Oswald and Shaw with Jack Ruby.

"I asked the manager of the Roosevelt Hotel about who would be a good man to see about finding a place for my bullfight," Odom said in an interview.

"HE SUGGESTED Mr. Shaw, so I called him—or the manager called him, I don't remember exactly.

"He (Shaw) came over to the hotel and we talked for 15 or 20 minutes. He gave me his business card—I bet I still have it around here somewhere—and I gave him my address in Dallas.

"The bullfight didn't come off and we never communicated again—that's all there was to it," Odom said.

(James C. Lehrer, a reporter for the Dallas Times-Herald, interviewed Lee Odom for the States-Item and the Times-Herald after the States-Item furnished him with information leading to Odom's whereabouts.)

Backs Shaw

Garrison said Friday that the same number appeared in Oswald's notebook and that he had worked out a code used by Oswald, accused assassin of President Kennedy. The code, Garrison said, revealed that P.O. 19106 was actually the unlisted number of Ruby, the man who shot Oswald and later died himself of cancer.

ODOM SAID he could explain how his name and address got into Shaw's address book. "As I said, I gave it to him. That was my post office box at the time—19106. I rented it, or my wife did for me, in the summer of 1966."

The box, located in the Medical Center Postal Substation in Dallas, was rented in the name of a barbecue company, the L. & R. Barbecue Co., he was running at the time, Odom said. "I used this address—P.O. 19106—for the barbecue and the promotion business."

THE BOX WAS kept until October or November, as Odom recalls it, a total of three or four months.

Garrison says the numbers PO 19106 also appeared in Oswald's notebook.

Oswald was killed in 1963. Dallas postal authorities have said the box number there did not come into being until 1965.

During the course of the interview, Odom said that he

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Lee Odom Backs Shaw P.O. Story

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did not know anything about anyone connected with the assassination of President Kennedy.

"WE NOW HAVE another box out here at the post office," here being the Dallas County suburb in which Odom now lives with his wife and two children.

For reasons of privacy, Odom asked that the city not be named. Odom said that he was not aware that anyone was interested in talking to him until he was located yesterday for the interview.

"I didn't have a chance to read a newspaper over the weekend," said Odom, a tall, rangy man born in Lakeview, Tex., 31 years ago.

HE SAID HE would be willing to tell his story to Garrison or anyone else. "I have nothing to hide—my goodness," he said. "You could tell Mr. Shaw I am ready to help him if I can."

Odom also said he feels sure that his story of the trip to New Orleans and his brief meeting with Shaw can be corroborated. "The man at the Roosevelt might remember it all. The records of the hotel should show I was there, too."

As he remembered it, Odom was in New Orleans for "two or three days" in the latter part of November, 1966. With a reporter present, Odom rummaged through some of his personal papers in his apartment and came up with the stub of his airplane ticket he used to return to Dallas from New Orleans Nov. 22, 1966.

"I NEVER THROW anything away and I'll bet I'll eventually find Mr. Shaw's business card somewhere," Odom said.

Odom says he does not recall any of the specific things said during their brief discussion. "I was trying to find a place for the bullfight and he said he might help me—something like that," he said.

"But the bullfight did not come off, so that was it. That was the only time I've ever talked with Mr. Shaw or had any contact with him whatsoever. Asked to describe the man he talked to in New Orleans, Odom said he was "very tall and big, about 50", and pointed out other characteristics descriptive of Shaw.

Odom had lived in Dallas proper until a month ago in an apartment complex. He and his family were living with his sister and brother-in-law there and he worked with a shoestore.

They now live in a multi-unit apartment complex in the suburban city near Dallas.

Well Aware Odom Exists, Garrison Says

Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison said today that he is well aware of the existence of a person by the name of Lee Odom, the man whose name appeared with the address P. O. Box 19106, Dallas, Tex., in Clay Shaw's address book.

Garrison said Friday that the same P. O. number also appeared in the notebook of accused presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald and that the two numbers, decoded, were the unpublished 1963 telephone number of Jack Ruby, the man who shot Oswald.

Odom was found in a Dallas suburb and interviewed. He confirmed Clay Shaw's story that he and Odom had known each other only briefly in 1966.

Garrison issued the following statement:

"WE ARE WELL AWARE THAT THERE is a Mr. Lee Odom. As a matter of fact, he lives in Irving, Tex., just outside of Dallas. This is the suburb in which Ruth Paine and Marina Oswald lived while Lee Oswald was working at the book depository in Dallas. Mr. Odom's post office box number there now is P. O. 174.

"The fact that there is a real Lee Odom, however, is not the point. The point is that Clay Shaw and Lee Oswald have the same post office box number in their address

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Knew Full Well Odom Existed, Says Garrison

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books and this is in coded form, the unpublished phone number of Jack Ruby in 1963. The fact that someone acquired the post office box when it came into existence in late 1965 does not change the oddity of that circumstance at all.

"We are very interested in knowing who introduced Mr. Odom to Mr. Shaw, how many bullfights Mr. Odom has actually produced and a few other things. We are particularly interested in clarifying now why there is also coded in Lee Oswald's address book the local phone number of the Central Intelligence Agency.

"We have had evidence for some time that in Dallas, Tex., Jack Ruby was working for the CIA at the same time Lee Oswald was working for the CIA here.

"This means that the CIA well knew that these two men knew each other. We also have evidence that Lee Oswald was not the only man in Dealy Plaza who was an employe of the CIA and now we have found the phone number of the CIA in the front of Lee Oswald's address book.

"Since it is obvious that it is no longer possible to get the truth in any form from officials of the CIA agency in Washington, no matter how highly placed, we are looking forward to talking to this businessman from Irving, Tex., about some of these coincidences."